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BRANCHES OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

LOCAL ORGANIZATION.

FROM the time of its establishment, the American Folk-Lore Society has especially occupied itself with the work of publication. While among its members have been included most American special students known to be concerned with this department of knowledge, it has also welcomed the coöperation of intelligent persons interested in the subject, and inclined, by their contributions and influence, to assist the undertakings of the Society.

Either for purposes of publication or research, the effectiveness of the Society must in a considerable degree depend on its numerical strength and representative character. Experience has shown that in order to secure these advantages local organization is essential. In the past, therefore, the Council has recommended the formation of Branches, which, while connected with the general Society, may also have an independent existence, and may hold monthly or stated meetings of their own. The proceedings of such Branches will naturally assume more latitude than those of the Society; below is printed a list of topics, which, during an existence of more than fifteen years, have been treated in the meetings of a single Branch.

During the past year, the inauguration of an active Branch in California, especially welcome in a field which has still a living unrecorded tradition, has encouraged the Council to believe that the time is favorable for the extension of similar movements. In order to forward such enlargement, the Council has voted to appoint in each State (or other territorial division) a Secretary, who may represent the interests of the American Folk-Lore Society in such a manner as he may esteem judicious and possible. Without expecting any sudden or remarkable results, it is hoped that in each region there may be found a few persons sufficiently interested to form a group of members, by which at least an annual meeting may be held and a report rendered.

The following account will show what beginning has been made in this movement, the progress of which will appear in subsequent numbers of this Journal. Members or other persons who may be disposed to offer advice or suggestions are requested to address the Permanent Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF BRANCHES.

ARIZONA.

Mr. F. A. Golder, Tempe, Arizona, has accepted the position of Secretary for Arizona.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. Charles Hill-Tout, Bucklands, Abbotsford, will act as Secretary for British Columbia.

CALIFORNIA.

Professor Kroeber, Department of Anthropology, Affiliated Colleges, San Francisco, will act as Secretary for California.

The proceedings of this Branch have above been separately printed. As a part of the proceedings should be considered two papers also above printed, namely, "A Composite Myth of the Pomo Indians," by S. A. Barrett, and "Mythology of the Mission Indians," by Constance Goddard Du Bois.

COLORADO.

Mrs. J. L. McNeil, 930 Logan Ave., Denver, will represent the Society in this State.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston, Tuesday, November 2, 1905. The first meeting of the Boston Branch during the season 1905-6 consisted in a recital of Scotch and Gaelic Folk-songs by Miss Amy Murray, the entertainment being given for the benefit of the general fund of the Branch. Miss Murray has just returned from the Hebrides, where for two seasons she has spent much time, sharing the primitive life of the people of the islands, and gathering their traditions and songs. At the Highland Mod of 1902 she received a prize for the best rendering of a Gaelic song with clairsach accompaniment. Of the songs that formed her repertoire some were taken from the lips of Father Allan, an indefatigable collector, who has died since Miss Murray's departure, leaving her in possession of a body of song otherwise unrecorded. Her presentation of the melodies was greatly enjoyed by the excellent audience which filled Steinert Hall.

Monday, November 19. The regular meeting was held at the house of Mrs. and Mrs. Otto B. Cole, 551 Boylston St. In the absence of Professor Putnam, Mr. W. W. Newell introduced the speaker of the evening, Professor George H. Chase of Harvard University, who gave an account of "Recent Discoveries in Crete viewed in the

Light of Greek Religion." The address, showing the character of a civilization older than that of Mycenæ, was illustrated with an admirable series of lantern slides. The meeting, as usual, then became informal and social.

Tuesday, January 25. The monthly meeting was held at the College Club House, 40 Commonwealth Ave. The Chairman, Mr. Newell, introduced Mr. Ernest Newton Bagg of Boston, who gave an account of "Some Tunebooks, Psalms, and other Music of the Forefathers." The speaker set forth the characteristics of the early New England taste in this direction, noting dislike for instrumental music in churches, and showed examples of old psalm-books. Mrs. Florence Hartmann, to illustrate the paper, gave a number of songs popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

At the close of the meeting a motion was adopted to send a letter of congratulation to Professor F. W. Putnam, President of the Branch, on his recovery from a recent severe illness.

Cambridge. The meeting of this Branch will be reported in the next issue of this Journal.

The paper of Mr. Percy A. Hutchison, "Sailors' Chanties," above printed, was presented at the February meeting.

MISSOURI.

Professor H. E. Belden, Columbia, professor at the State University, has consented to act as Secretary for Missouri.

NEVADA.

Miss J. E. Wier, Reno, Instructor in the State University, has been appointed Secretary for Nevada.

OHIO.

Cincinnati. The meetings for the year of this Society will receive notice in the next issue of the Journal.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Dr. George Byron Gordon, Curator of Anthropology, Free Museum of Science and Art (University of Pennsylvania), Philadelphia, will act as Secretary for Pennsylvania.